GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:629
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
PRIVATISATION OF TELECOM INDUSTRY
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any achievement in the privatisation of telecom industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints in the functioning of BSNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Till 1984, the manufacturing of the telecom equipment was reserved for Public Sector Company. In 1984, manufacturing of terminal equipment was allowed in Private Sector. Further, with the liberalisation of economic policies of the Government, the entire telecom manufacturing sector was opened up for private sector in 1991. Since then, a large number of companies, both domestic and multinationals, have set up their manufacturing base in the country and the production has increased from Rs. 3,985 crores in 1992-93 to Rs. 12,271 crores (estimated) in 2000-2001. Recently, 74% of the equity of M/s. Hindustan Teleprinters Limited (HTL), a public sector company manufacturing telecom products, has been sold to M/s. Himachal Futurisitic Communications Ltd. (HFCL) and the management of the company has been taken over by HFCL.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.